

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-20

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TAGS; CI PINT MILL, PGOV

SUBJ: CARABINEROS TRANSFERRED TO MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

1. HIGHPOINT OF APRIL 27 CELEBRATION OF 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF CARABINEROS (NATIONAL UNIFORMED POLICE CORPS) WAS SIGNING BY ALL FOUR JUNTA MEMBERS OF DECREE-LAW 444, WHICH TRANSFERRED CARABINEROS FROM MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TO MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. DECREE-LAW CREATED AN UNDER SECRETARY FOR CARABINEROS ON SAME LEVEL AS PRESENT UNDER SECS FOR ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE. DECREE-LAW, AND VARIOUS SPEAKERS, STRESSED THAT PRINCIPAL MOTIVE WAS TO REMOVE CARABINEROS FROM CONTROL OF MIN INTERIOR " WHICH IS PREOCCUPIED AND ABSORBED WITH POLITICS." CARABINERO DIRECTOR GENERAL, HENCEFORTH TO BE CALLED CINC, GEN CESAR MENDOZA, STRESSED THAT CHANGE OF JURISDICTION WILL ALLOW CARABINEROS TO DEVELOP THEIR FULL PROFESSIONAL POTENTIAL, WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN STIFLED BY HAVING TO FOLLOW POLITICAL DICTATES OF CIVILIAN POLITICIANS.

2. COMMENT: IT IS QUITE CLEAR FROM STATEMENTS MADE AT CEREMONY THAT LEADERS OF CARABINEROS WERE EMBARRASSED, AT LEAST RETROACTIVELY, BY REQUIREMENTS THEY RECEIVED FROM THEIR POLITICAL CHIEFS DURING ALLENDE GOVERNMENT PERIOD, THROUGH INTERIOR MINISTRY.

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BY TRANSFERRING CARABINEROS TO DEFENSE MINISTRY, JUNTA

EVIDENTLY SEEKS TO MINIMIZE POLITICAL CONTROL OF THIS
NATIONAL POLICE FORCE FOR PARTISAN PURPOSES IN THE FUTURE.
HENCEFORTH BOTH MILITARY AND POLICE FUNCTIONS
WILL BE COORDINATED THROUGH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE; IT
CAN BE ANTICIPATED THAT THIS WILL REMAIN A POWER CENTER
SEPARATE FROM AND TO SOME DEGREE FREE FROM THE CONTROL
OF POLITICAL LEADERS OF FUTURE CHILEAN GOVERNMENTS,
AFTER MORE NORMAL POLITICAL LIFE IS RESUMED UNDER A NEW
CONSTITUTION PROVIDING FOR A MORE STABLE AND LESS
FACTIONAL DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. THUS, THIS ORGANIZATIONAL
SHIFT OF CARABINEROS PLAYS A PART IN THE RESTRUCTURING
OF THE CHILEAN DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN WHICH THE JUNTA STATES IT IS
ENGAGED.
POPPER

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